Senate Engrossed House Bill

FILED KEN BENNETT SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona House of Representatives Forty-ninth Legislature Second Regular Session 2010

CHAPTER 180

HOUSE BILL 2463

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 6, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 20-463.01; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-466.01 AND 20-466.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO AUTO GLASS REPAIR.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Title 20, chapter 2, article 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 20-463.01, to read:

20-463.01. <u>Unlawful practices: auto glass repair: policyholders: insurers</u>

- A. IT IS AN UNLAWFUL PRACTICE FOR A PERSON WHO SELLS OR REPAIRS AUTO GLASS TO KNOWINGLY:
- 1. SUBMIT A FALSE CLAIM TO AN INSURER FOR AUTO GLASS REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OR FOR RELATED SERVICES:
 - (a) IF THE SERVICES WERE NOT PROVIDED.
- (b) SHOWING WORK PERFORMED IN A GEOGRAPHICAL AREA THAT IN FACT WAS NOT THE LOCATION WHERE THE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED AND THAT RESULTS IN A HIGHER PAYMENT THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE PAID TO THE PERSON BY THE POLICYHOLDER'S INSURER.
 - (c) NOT AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE OWNER OR LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE.
- (d) SHOWING WORK PERFORMED ON A DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE THE WORK WAS ACTUALLY PERFORMED AND RESULTING IN A CHANGE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS.
- 2. ADVISE A POLICYHOLDER TO FALSIFY THE DATE OF DAMAGE TO THE AUTO GLASS THAT RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF THE AUTO GLASS.
- 3. FALSELY SIGN ON BEHALF OF A POLICYHOLDER OR ANOTHER PERSON A WORK ORDER, INSURANCE ASSIGNMENT FORM OR OTHER RELATED FORM IN ORDER TO SUBMIT A CLAIM TO AN INSURER FOR AUTO GLASS REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OR FOR RELATED SERVICES.
 - 4. MISREPRESENT TO A POLICYHOLDER OR OTHER PERSON:
- (a) THE PRICE OF THE PROPOSED REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT BEING BILLED TO THE POLICYHOLDER'S INSURER.
- (b) THAT THE INSURER HAS APPROVED THE REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT UNLESS THE AUTO GLASS REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT FACILITY HAS VERIFIED COVERAGE OR OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION DIRECTLY FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTED WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY FAX, E-MAIL OR OTHER WRITTEN AND RECORDED COMMUNICATION.
- 5. REPRESENT TO A POLICYHOLDER OR OTHER PERSON THAT THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT WILL BE PAID FOR ENTIRELY BY THE POLICYHOLDER'S INSURER AND AT NO COST TO THE POLICYHOLDER UNLESS THE INSURANCE COVERAGE HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY A PERSON WHO IS EMPLOYED BY OR IS A PRODUCER CONTRACTED WITH THE POLICYHOLDER'S INSURER OR IS A THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTED WITH THE INSURER.
- 6. ADD TO THE DAMAGE OF AUTO GLASS BEFORE REPAIR IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OR ENCOURAGE A POLICYHOLDER OR OTHER PERSON TO ADD TO THE DAMAGE OF AUTO GLASS BEFORE REPAIR.
- 7. PERFORM WORK CLEARLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY BEYOND THE LEVEL OF WORK NECESSARY TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE AUTO GLASS TO PUT THE VEHICLE BACK INTO A SAFE PRE-DAMAGED CONDITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED OR APPROVED REASONABLE AND CUSTOMARY GLASS REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT TECHNIQUES.

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- B. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON WHO SELLS OR REPAIRS AUTO GLASS TO INTENTIONALLY MISREPRESENT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLASS REPAIR FACILITY TO THE POLICYHOLDER'S INSURER. FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON INTENDED THE MISREPRESENTATION, IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT THE PERSON INTENDED THE MISREPRESENTATION IF THE PERSON WAS ENGAGED IN A REGULAR AND CONSISTENT PATTERN OF MISREPRESENTATION.
- C. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
- D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER A DEFENDANT KNEW OF ANY PARTICULAR ELEMENT OF THE PROHIBITED ACTIVITY, IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT THE PERSON HAD KNOWLEDGE IF THE PERSON WAS ENGAGED IN A REGULAR AND CONSISTENT PATTERN OF THE PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.
- Sec. 2. Section 20-466.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20-466.01. Fraud: classification

A person who violates section 20-463 OR 20-463.01 with the intent to injure, defraud or deceive an insurer is guilty of a class 6 felony.

Sec. 3. Section 20-466.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20-466.02. <u>Injunction: restitution: civil penalties: costs</u>

- A. On request by the director, the attorney general may seek and obtain in an action in the superior court an injunction that prohibits a person from engaging in practices or doing any acts that violate section 20-463, 20-463.01 or 23-1028. The court may enter any order or judgment that is necessary to:
- 1. Prevent any act or practice that is unlawful under section 20-463, 20-463.01 or 23-1028.
- 2. Return any monies, interest or real or personal property that was acquired by an act or practice that is unlawful under section 20-463, 20-463.01 or 23-1028.
- B. An order of restitution may also include expenses incurred and paid by an insurer in connection with any medical evaluation or treatment services.
- C. If the court finds that a person has violated section 20-463, 20-463.01 or 23-1028, the attorney general on petition or complaint to the court may recover from that person on behalf of the state a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars for each violation.
- D. In any action pursuant to this section, the court may award the attorney general costs including reasonable attorney fees and investigative costs for the services rendered.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 27, 2010.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 28, 2010.

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